Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-41. (Canceled)

42. (Currently amended) A method for determining whether a test colon cell has an ~~ulcerative colitis (UC) or Crohn's disease (CD)~~ inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) phenotype, said method comprising:

(a) determining an expression level of each of the following genes in said test colon cell:

(i) a macrophage inflammatory protein-2β (GRO3) gene;

(ii) a neutrophil lipocalin (HNL) gene;

(iii) a macrophage elastase (MMP-12) gene;

(iv) an elastase specific inhibitor (elafin) gene; and

(v) a type VI collagen α3 chain (COL6A3) gene;

(b) comparing the expression level of each of said GRO3, HNL, MMP-12, elafin, and COL6A3 genes in said test colon cell to an expression level of the same gene in a normal colon cell; and

(c) associating an increase in the expression level of ~~each~~ any of said GRO3, HNL, MMP-12, elafin, and COL6A3 genes in said test colon cell relative to the expression level of the same gene in said normal colon cell with ~~a UC~~ an IBD phenotype in said test colon cell~~; and~~

~~(d) associating an increase in the expression level of each of said MMP-12 and elafin genes in said test colon cell relative to the expression level of the same gene in said normal colon cell and a normal expression level of each of said GRO3, HNL, and COL6A3 genes with a CD phenotype in said test colon cell~~.

43-45. (Canceled)

46. (Currently amended) The method of claim 42, wherein said test colon cell has ~~a UC~~ an IBD phenotype when the expression level of ~~each~~ any of said GRO3, HNL, MMP-12, elafin, and COL6A3 genes in said test colon cell is increased relative to the expression level of the same gene in said normal colon cell by at least a factor of two.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein said test colon cell is obtained from a needle biopsy core, a surgical resection sample, or a bowel sample.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the expression level of said genes is determined using Northern blot analysis, reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction, in situ hybridization, or an array.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 48, wherein said array comprises:

(a) nucleic acid probes of 12-40 nucleotides in length, wherein said nucleic acid probes are complementary to said genes and hybridize under high stringency conditions to said genes; and

(b) a substrate to which said nucleic acid probes are bound.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein said substrate is selected from the group consisting of paper, membranes, filters, chips, pins, and glass.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein said nucleic acid probes are bound to said substrate by covalent bonds or hydrophobic interactions.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein said nucleic acid probes are spotted onto said substrate in a two-dimensional matrix or array.

53-56. (Canceled)